

NSB Neighborhood Council
June 22, 2020

Present: R. Herman, S. Morris, L. Palmer, C. Meadows, B. Johnson, E. Bell J. Lurkins
Absent, T. Bowen, Resigned

Public Participation:

Several residents spoke during this allotted time:

- One resident expressed concern about the county relief grant language being vague as it indicates funds are for programs that didn't fit regular guidelines while seemingly excluding those same programs. She contacted the county who confirmed the language was deliberate to discourage people in that category. She suggested the city could access some of the grant funds for 2021 programs for children and minorities, for if they created a non-profit and fulfilled the grant requirements of being a nonprofit for 1 year, they could provide supporting financials and necessary benchmarking for the benefit of the community.
- A second resident from the Coronado Neighborhood shared residents' serious concerns over parking and access to private homes on weekends and the over-crowded boat ramp.
- A third expressed concern over speeding and the volume of parked vehicles. The existing infrastructure does not accommodate this current activity and suggested more stop signs on N. Peninsula and speed bumps on side streets.
- A member of the NSB Historical Preservation Commission (NSBHPC) presented a city demolition report from Jan. 2019 –May 2020:
 - ❖ Since January 2019, there have been 25 single family home demolitions - five of those demolitions were in the NSB Historic District
 - ❖ Original construction dates for 17 of the homes were verified; 13 of the 17 were 50 years or older, qualifying them as historic.
 - ❖ In June 2020, 2 demolition applications were considered by NSBHPC. Demolition of a home was rejected; a garage demolition was approved.
 - ❖ The challenge: NSB has varied and unique housing stock being one of the oldest Florida cities. NSB has two downtowns and parts of each are in historic districts. We should encourage architects, builders and property owners to recognize and preserve our cultural, historic and environmental assets.
 - ❖ Questions that remain:
 - ✚ Are the 25 SFR demolitions a normal amount/trend in comparison to the past 10 years?
 - ✚ Why do so many cleared properties remain undeveloped?
 - ✚ Do the Land Development Regulations (LDR) need to be reviewed?
 - ✚ What is meant by neighborhood compatibility?
 - ✚ How to balance private property rights and retain a low-rise, charming housing stock?

New Business:

Community Engagement: Resident Karen Francis will be volunteering her expertise to help the city develop a community engagement culture to include and encourage listening

and consulting partnerships with residents where all are welcome. Ms. Francis requested the NC draft a motion to endorse a unified City Proclamation inviting all city groups (including police and fire) and communities to participate in a year of monthly sensitivity workshops.

NC Board Comments:

S. Morris stated that we need a safe space for our community that is different from the current trend in order to bring value to all residents, regardless of race.

B. Johnson concurred with the initiative but was concerned about taking on too many things at once, so suggested phasing in the elements. Ms. Francis replied there's been a lot of workshops, study, discussions, yet no follow up or follow thru. This initiative is to create intentional work and priority commitment.

L. Palmer asked if a draft of the proclamation exists. Ms. Francis indicated she wants all parties involved in creating the proclamation for full buy-in by all.

S. Morris stated if she presented a draft to the City Commissioners to be collaborated on by all parties, the next step would be to draft the proclamation with city officials and residents.

P. Veski indicated the 2020 Strategic Plan includes areas that may overlap/encompass the initiative. He suggested a review of the 2020 Strategic Plan to see how it fits the proclamation. Ms. Francis asked who develops the survey as that's an example of what her initiative would impact – more than city officials should be involved.

R. Herman asked for clarification of what she wants from the NC. Endorse the model? Endorse the outlined actions? The NC can endorse and recommend, but that is the limit of their power and suggested that a written draft be presented to the NC.

Coronado Island Neighborhood Plan 2016-2020: J. Baker stated back in 2015 about 50 people worked to develop the SWOT analysis, the AOB site analysis, and address parking issues. Currently, parking is worse than ever and the current drawbridge design that was intended to reduce the footprint and land grab has created a backlog of traffic when the bridge is open. The original participants are no longer here to work on an updated plan. There are 3 different speed limits within the community due to different road jurisdictions (city, state, county). Asked if the NC would schedule a meeting with the new group to endorse the plan, using the current model to reactivate and improve it.

NC Comments:

S. Morris thought the plan is well done, a model for other communities, including the vision statement.

R. Herman stated the intent is to update every 5 years, and starting at yr. 4 is good, but there are still some areas of action that have not been attended to like docks that are not included but should be. Without the original group to continue, it's a problem to initiate the review process – who would do it?

City Staff Comment

B. Fields suggested to J. Baker to reintroduce the plan and prioritize the elements to see if there is interest in the community. If there is interest, then the city can participate.

Traffic Calming Discussion: City Staff B. Fields stated that the City Commission is aware that traffic calming is a quality of life issue. A traffic calming manual is intended to standardize and establish a process to address traffic concerns with scientific standards and procedures for requests and concerns to be submitted, reviewed and analyzed. There are two version of the manual: one drafted by Vice Mayor M. Kolody and the other by an engineering consultant. Speed limit changes require a study to justify it, and are limited by the jurisdiction of the road (city, state, county).

NC Comment

R. Herman stated that hopefully, consideration is given to actual human danger v. scientific data only.

Comprehensive Plan – Recreational and Open Space Element Discussion: City Staff B. Fields disclosed the Parks Master Plan is on the June 23rd City Commission agenda and includes a full inventory of current parks and objectives that include a need for West Side parks. His study of the parks impact fee rate indicates current NSB rates are very low, well below the industry standard ie. \$200 per each new home v. \$1500-\$2000 in other parts of Florida. The impact fees are not restricted to the zones they are collected in. Current funds would be used to maintain current structures; however, he projected that newly collected fees be utilized to add new parks. There is a 5 acre plot west of I-95 the city is interested in as a recreational facility. Expanding walking trails are still in the discussion phase.

NC Comments

B. Johnson requested specific details on the facility plans west of I-95, for being a member of the Venetian Bay HOA board, there are several areas (lots) within VB they cannot develop and are willing to give the city access/ownership to develop as park/recreational space.

R. Herman said he would philosophically endorse a park impact fee increase and asked if the city considered hiring a master planner consultant?

If an agenda develops, the NC will schedule a meeting in July, if not, the next meeting will be August 24th.